(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Vaidyanathan Committee Report on Pricing of Irrigation Water

1760. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Vaidyanathan Committee on pricing of Irrigation water has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the salient features therof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The Vaidyanathan Committee was an internal Group set up by the Planning Commission in October, 1991 to study the pricing of irrigation water. The Committee submitted its report in September, 1992.

(b) Some salient features of the report include : treating water rates as users charge; the objective of water charge is ultimately to recover cost; linking revision of water rates to the improvement of the quality of service; revision and implementation of water rates in phases consolidation of the system of farmer group management; upgrading the system to higher level efficiency in water use and productivity; setting up experts' group at the State level for working out norms and procedure for periodic monitoring; setting up of autonomous boards at the State level to review policy regarding cost of water, revising water rates and introducing a minimum financial return criteria.

(c) 'Irrigation' being a State subject, decisions on water rates can be taken only in consultation with the State Governments and the Administrations of Union Territories.

Setting up New Order for Completion of Projects

1761. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in the Economic Times under the caption "Public Sector Project costs over run 70 per cent";

(b) if so, what is the total number of projects which were still going on because of their non-completion in the scheduled time and what is the estimated percentage increase in the present cost of those projects;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have set up any new order for gearing up the construction work of the projects for future in time; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the new order and what are the steps being taken to speed up the construction work of the projects under this new order ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As per the Department of Programme Implementation's quarterly monitoring system report as on 30-06-1992, there were 200 projects which were delayed with respect to their original approved schedule are still under implementation. The percentage increase in cost of these 200 delayed projects with respect to their original approved cost is 95.4 per cent.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The whole system of Project Implementation is under constant review to identify bottlenecks and remove constraints. The recent measures